

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /071 W

-----066521 060845Z /21

R 060756Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7971

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1654

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3285

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF

SUBJECT: SPORADIC UNREST IN SOWETO AND PRETORIA TOWNSHIPS

KEEPS AREAS TENSE

REF: (A) JOHANNESBURG 1506, AND PREVIOUS, (B) JOHANNESBURG 1632,

1. SUMMARY: SCATTERED INCIDENTS IN SOWETO AND PRETORIA TOWNSHIPS SINCE JUNE 23 HAVE KEPT THE AREAS TENSE. NO PATTERN OF DISSIDENT STUDENT ACTIVITIES HAS EMERGED, BUT SOWETO STUDENTS ALLEGEDLY PLAN FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS TO HARASS POLICE AND PROVE THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. SPORADIC DISTURBANCES IN SOWETO AND PRETORIA'S BLACK TOWNSHIPS SINCE THE JUNE 16 SOWETO RIOTS ANNIVERSARY CONTINUE TO KEEP THE AREAS TENSE. SOWETO HAS HAD NO MAJOR INCIDENTS SINCE THE JUNE 23 MARCH ON JOHANNESBURG (REF B), BUT FUNERALS OF THREE STUDENTS WHO DIED DURING THE ANNIVERSARY PERIOD HAVE CAUSED MINOR CLASHES BETWEEN POLICE AND LARGE
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CROWDS OF MOURNERS. ACCORDING TO ONE RELIABLE SOURCE, STUDENTS PLAN TO CONTINUE THE TACTIC OF HOLDING DEMONSTRATIONS OR ANNOUNCING PLANS TO HOLD DEMONSTRATIONS TO KEEP POLICE OFF BALANCE AND DEMONSTRATE THEIR OWN POWER AND ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITY.

3. IN PRETORIA THREE SEPARATE INCIDENTS INCREASED TENSIONS. ON JUNE 28, A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 100 BLACK STUDENTS

REPORTEDLY MARCHED FROM THE BLACK RAILWAY STATION TOWARD THE CITY CENTER SINGING AND WAVING PLACARDS READING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, "BANTU EDUCATION IS ROTTEN." YOUTHS WERE INTERCEPTED BY POLICE SOON AFTER THE MARCH BEGAN AND WERE DISPERSED QUIETLY AND WITHOUT FORCE. TWENTY-THREE WERE ARRESTED FOR UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY. IN THE BLACK TOWNSHIP OF ATTERIDGEVILLE, GROUPS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS REPORTEDLY STONED THREE SCHOOLS AND ORDERED STUDENTS TO LEAVE THE BUILDINGS ON JUNE 28. POLICE DISPERSED ROAMING BANDS WITHOUT INCIDENT AND REINFORCED PATROLS AT RAILWAY STATIONS. NO ARRESTS WERE REPORTED. IN A THIRD INCIDENT, ATTERIDGEVILLE STUDENTS SET AFIRE A BANTU ADMINISTRATION BOARD TRUCK LOADED WITH BEER. A BOARD EMPLOYEE REPORTEDLY FIRED TWO SHOTS AT THE YOUTHS, BUT NO ONE WAS INJURED. POLICE DISPERSED THE STUDENTS AND MADE NO ARRESTS.

4. MEANWHILE, IN A TRIAL OF THIRTY STUDENTS ARRESTED DURING JUNE 23 MARCH IN JOHANNESBURG, ALL PLEADED GUILTY. THE COURT CONVICTED THEM OF ATTENDING AN ILLEGAL PUBLIC GATHERING AND FINED THEM FROM R20 TO R40. DURING THE TRIAL A POLICEMAN SAID THE STUDENTS TOLD HIM TSOTSIS (HOODLUMS) HAD FORCED THEM TO STAGE THE DISTURBANCES. THE TRIAL OF ANOTHER 143 STUDENTS ACCUSED OF PUBLIC VIOLENCE DURING THE SAME INCIDENT WAS TO BEGIN JULY 5.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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